

Online Course Syllabus

GM-5500 *Communication of Biblical Truth*

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the structures and methods used to prepare and deliver biblical, “Big Idea,” expositional messages. It includes a consideration of the exegetical process as it leads to the development of a homiletical idea from the epistolary literature on order to craft an application relevant to the audience. It includes an emphasis on clarity in outlining and delivery.

3 credit hours

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the concept of expository and Big Idea preaching (Knowledge and Understanding).
2. Practice a consistent procedure for sermon preparation (Performance and Action).
3. Derive an accurate homiletical idea for a given passage (Reflection and Critique).
4. Speak with and produce outlines that demonstrate clarity (Performance and Action).
5. Illustrate and apply the biblical text in a way that demonstrates its relevance (Performance and Action).

Course Materials (required)

Only those items required to be obtained by you are listed on this syllabus. Some reading material and/or media links used in the course—but not required for purchase—will be provided in Canvas for the week/lesson in which the materials are used.

Readings:

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 3rd ed., Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2014. ISBN: 978-0801049125. [**Robinson**]

Bible:

A Bible is frequently used in online courses at Moody. Unless otherwise specified, you may use the Bible version of your choice. If a specific version is required, you may wish to purchase for your personal library. Many versions are available free online at: www.biblegateway.com, www.biblestudytools.com/bible-versions/, www.bible.com/versions, etc.

IMPORTANT: Textbooks and other materials in this online course are carefully selected and approved by Moody Bible Institute faculty to engage students in learning. Views expressed in the material may not necessarily reflect those held by Moody. We expect students to engage with course material in a mature and respectful way, understanding it may not always align with a biblical worldview and must be engaged with maturity and critical thinking. If you struggle with the content of the material from a biblical or theological perspective, please contact your course instructor for advice and guidance.

Course Work

All course work is due according to the course **Schedule**.

A. CLASS PARTICIPATION: Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: study materials (reading/media) and discussion boards (student interaction). Class Participation contributes significantly to your final course grade.

1. **Study Materials:** The completion of the course reading, audio/video review, online articles, etc. is an important part of your education. You should complete these study materials prior to working on your graded assignment(s) and initial discussion board posting with each lesson so that you can incorporate new concepts from these materials into your work. While Moody does not require the reporting of your reading/media engagement, you are each expected to engage with the content, as expressed in the **Course Honor Code & Professional Conduct Statements** listed below.
2. **Discussion Boards:** Discussion boards are, by nature, the interaction between students and peers to be completed during the week for which they are assigned. When students do not participate in discussion boards they essentially rob not only themselves but their peers of the learning opportunity. This is a disservice to everyone. No credit will be granted for late discussion board posting unless otherwise approved by the instructor.

You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. If not specified, **post your initial response** to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59 pm CT [Central Time]). Then read all other threads and **respond to at least two (2)** other student initial threads by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59 pm CT).

B. ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments are the primary means of assessing whether learning has transpired and may include papers, reports, exams, projects, and the like. Specific detail for each assignment is listed in Canvas. Create the assignment, save the file, then submit through a link in Canvas so they can be graded by your instructor. Your instructor will return assignments through Canvas. Submit all assignments by **Monday at 11:59 pm CT** unless otherwise stated in the directions.

Assessments

Grades for this course will consist of:

Assessment		Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade*
Class Participation: Discussion Boards (8 @ 18 pts.)		144	20%
A1-1	Personal Preparation and Plan for Your Sermon	100	40%
A1-2	Study Your Passage	100	
A1-3	Explore the Historical and Cultural Context	100	
A2-1	Consult Commentaries	100	
A2-2	Outline Your Passage and Evaluate Other Outlines	100	
A2-3	Passage's Big Idea - Evaluation and Results	100	
A3-1	Write and Develop Your Sermon Material	100	
A3-2	Preach Your First Sermon and Create Thread in Week 4	100	
A4-1	Sermon Assessment of Your Own First Sermon	100	
A5-1	Personal Preparation and Plan for Your Second Sermon	100	
A5-2	Study Your Passage for Your Second Sermon	100	
A5-3	Explore the Historical and Cultural Context for Your Second Sermon	100	
A6-1	Consult Commentaries for Your Second Sermon	100	
A6-2	Outline Your Passage and Evaluate Other Outlines for Your Second Sermon	100	
A6-3	Passage's Big Idea for Second Sermon - Evaluation and Results of Your Study	100	
A7-1	Write and Develop Your Second Sermon Material	100	
A8-1	Sermon Assessment of Your Own Second Sermon (and three areas of improvement)	100	
A7-2	Preach Your Second Sermon and Create a Thread in Week 8	100	40%
Totals:		1,944	100%

***Note:** This course uses the [weighted percentages](#) to determine your final grade.

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96-100	Exceptional work
A-	94-95	Excellent work
B+	92-93	Very good work
B	89-91	Good work
B-	87-88	Above average work
C+	83-86	Average work
C	79-82	Work needs improvement
C-	75-78	Minimally acceptable work
F	<75	Unacceptable work

Turabian Writing Style

Graduate students at Moody Bible Institute are to follow the Turabian style for all written assignments. Your instructor may waive this requirement for specific assignments such as discussion boards, blogs, emails, and the like, but if not stated otherwise, follow Turabian guidelines. Assignments not in proper Turabian format may be returned with a request to redo the assignment and could be subject to a late penalty.

Unless otherwise directed, all assignments submitted as a document are to be in a standard 12-point serif font (limited to Time New Roman, Cambria, Century Schoolbook), 8½ x 11-inch page size, double-spaced and are to be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) only. **IMPORTANT:** Other document formats will be returned to the student for resubmission with the possibility of a late penalty being applied.

You should follow the latest version of the Turabian style guide here: *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. A "[Citation Quick Guide](#)" is available online.

Course Honor Code & Professional Conduct Statements

Course Honor Code

At Moody Bible Institute Distance Learning you are required to maintain the highest ethical and moral standards in your quest for academic excellence. Therefore, you commit to not cheat, steal, or claim credit for the ideas and words of others. You commit to respect the intellectual property of others and will always acknowledge the authorship of intellectual property in all forms. By participating in this course, you acknowledge you have read this syllabus and agree to abide by it.

Professional Conduct

Moody Bible Institute online students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to continued growth toward biblical and spiritual maturity. You are expected to access classes regularly, interact with the required readings and media, and to be fully prepared and engaged. You are expected to act professionally and with a high degree of ethical conduct while applying yourself fully to the job of learning. All communications are expected to be conducted in a professional manner, whether oral or written, in assignments, email, or Discussion Boards. Consult the *Student Handbook* for distance learning/online student's further details on the "Code of Conduct for Online and Non-Residential Students."

It is your obligation to know and observe all institute policies and procedures and to keep current with this class by reading the information posted on the Announcement page and sent by email to your official *Moody.edu* email address.

Academic Integrity and Penalties for Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity requires students to be responsible and honest in the fulfillment of all of their academic work. Assignments, examinations, and other educational requirements are intended to foster student learning. Students are expected to submit original work, to use appropriate citation giving credit to the ideas or words of another person, and to refrain from cheating of any kind.

Cheating

Cheating is any act (whether successful or attempted) in which a student is dishonest or seeks to gain an unfair advantage on an assignment, quiz, paper, examination, class, etc. Some common forms of cheating included, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Using unauthorized material during an examination or other assignments
- Submitting the same assignment in more than one class
- Lying to an instructor in order to obtain an excused absence, extension on an assignment, makeup examination, admission to a class or program, etc.
- Inappropriate collaboration on classroom assignments
- Assisting others in academic misconduct

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking the ideas or words of another person and presenting them as one's own whether intentional or unintentional. Intentional plagiarism is unethical and constitutes a serious infraction of academic policy. When the words or ideas of others are used, proper credit must be given, either in a footnote or in the text.

Penalties for Academic Misconduct

First Offense: automatic failure of any and all assignments, quizzes, examinations, or class requirements in which academic misconduct occurred. The instructor of the course will notify the Academic Standards Committee via the registrar with an explanation of the situation. Discretion is given to the Academic Standards Committee and the Academic Dean to impose more strenuous penalties. The violation will remain on record and information concerning the incident will be communicated to all instructors.

Second Offense: automatic failure of any and all assignments, quizzes, examinations, or class requirements in which academic misconduct occurred. The instructor of the course will notify the Academic Standards Committee via the registrar. Discretion is given to the Academic Standards Committee and the Academic Dean to determine an appropriate penalty with a minimum penalty of failure of a course and a maximum penalty of suspension or dismissal. A record of the violation goes into the student's file. The Academic Dean will notify faculty of the results of this process.

ADA Compliance Statement

Moody Bible Institute complies with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by providing appropriate accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. We encourage you to contact the disability services provider, at the Student Resource Center, to discuss possible environmental modifications or adaptations. Please note, accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, we encourage you to contact the services provider within the first two weeks of the semester. Contact information provided within each online course.